



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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June 23 2004

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LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Earl Tilly, found 55 elected officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Monday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Tilly said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent a warning letter asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 7, 2004 and letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 28, 2004.

Government officials from Eastern Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

Harley Halverson, Commissioner for the Liberty Lake Sewer District #1, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Kenneth Canfield, School Director for the Mary Walker School District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300.

Denise McDonald, School Director for the Selkirk School District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Terri Kammers, Commissioner for the Ferry County Parks and Recreation District #2, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Daniel Berger, School Director for the Kettle Falls School District #212, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with \$50 suspended upon the condition he have no further violations of the Disclosure Law for two years.

Dave Michel, School Director for the Republic School District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100 with the entire penalty suspended upon the condition he have no further violations of the Disclosure Law for two years.

Tina Steinmetz, Commissioner for the Ritzville Park and Recreation District #4, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.